

December 4, 2007

Mr. Richard Shepard
Department of Transportation
County of El Dorado
2850 Fair Lane Court
Placerville, California 95667

Subject: PSOMAS Task Orders-Missouri Flat Project

Mr. Shepard:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the payment status of the public relation items on the three task orders that have been approved for PSOMAS. My office will NOT pay PSOMAS for any public relations expenses until such time as I am directed to do so by the Board of Supervisors or such time as the Board of Supervisors clarifies the three task orders.

I am very disappointed in the way DOT has communicated with the Board of Supervisors and the CAO regarding PSOMAS. DOT has done a poor job in its board letters of clearly describing the task orders that are being delegated to PSOMAS. As an example, although DOT had a draft task order written on March 28th, 2007, authorizing PSOMAS to incur significant unusual ground breaking expenses, the nature of this task order was not included in DOT's board letter requesting the Board's approval of the PSOMAS contract on April 17, 2007, almost three weeks later. Further, DOT's board documents supporting the Board's action on July 3rd, 2007, makes it nearly impossible for the Board of Supervisors or the CAO to be aware that \$249,000 of public relations expenditures were authorized by Task Order #3. DOT neglected to point out in the board letter this \$249,000 authorization. The task order budget form provided to the Board and the CAO by DOT which describes this \$249,000 authorization, was illegible.

My office will not process checks for large unusual public relations expenses unless the expenses have been clearly authorized by the Board of Supervisors. Further, I believe it is inappropriate to charge certain public relation expenses to the TIM fee programs.

Sincerely,

Joe Harn, CPA
Auditor-Controller

Cc: Board of Supervisors
Laura Gill, CAO